

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 6-7, 2023

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c. (4), Action

Prepared By: Cherry Zamora
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: November 22, 2023

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Funding Consideration – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sweet Home Antelope Valley, Where the Skies are so Blue project, Resolution E-23-150

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sweet Home Antelope Valley, Where the Skies are so Blue project (Project) located in the City of Lancaster in Los Angeles County, and approve the Project for future funding consideration.

Issue:

The City of Lancaster (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency for the Project. The Project is located on ±43 gross acres at the southeastern corner of 6th Street West and Avenue L-8. The Project includes a 5.72-megawatt direct current/4.38 megawatt alternating current solar facility with battery storage. This facility would be used by both the Antelope Valley Transit Authority and the Antelope Valley School Transportation Agency to charge their zero-emission vehicle fleets. The Project also includes the addition of zero-emission microtransit buses and school buses.

For all projects that are anticipated to be funded through a program under the purview of the Commission, full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act is required. The Commission will not allocate funds to projects for design, right-of-way, or construction until the environmental document is complete, and the Commission has approved the environmentally cleared project for future funding consideration.

Background:

On July 21, 2022, the City Council adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On November 14, 2023, the City confirmed that the environmental document remains valid and there are no new impacts requiring mitigation. On November 16, 2023, the

Antelope Valley Transit Authority, the funding applicant, confirmed the Project set forth in the environmental document is consistent with the Project's scope of work programmed by the Commission.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and hazards and hazardous materials. Mitigation measures include dust control during construction; construction worker training; burrowing owl and nesting bird pre-construction surveys; obtaining permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board; implementing discovery measures for cultural resources including coordination with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; having a Native American monitor procured by the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians during all clearing, grubbing, and grading; preparation of a geotechnical study; compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity; implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; implementation of Best Management Practices to control erosion; initial spot-checking by a Qualified Paleontologist; implementation of a paleontological resources Worker's Environmental Awareness Program; and asbestos testing of irrigation pipes at the site.

The Project is estimated to cost \$10,866,505 and is funded through construction with Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (\$4,829,505), Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 (\$2,984,000), Low Carbon Fuel Standard (\$90,000), Antelope Valley Transit Authority Cash – (\$1,415,000), and Hybrid and Zero-Emission truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (\$1,548,000) funds.

Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2023-24.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-23-150
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution for Future Funding Consideration**

**07 – Los Angeles County
Resolution E-23-150**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Sweet Home Antelope Valley, Where the Skies are so Blue project (Project) in the City in Los Angeles County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the City has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Project is located on ±43 gross acres at the southeastern corner of 6th Street West and Avenue L-8 in the City in Los Angeles County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project includes a 5.72-megawatt direct current/4.38 megawatt alternating current solar facility with battery storage. This facility would be used by both the Antelope Valley Transit Authority and the Antelope Valley School Transportation Agency to charge their zero-emission vehicle fleets. This facility would be used by both the Antelope Valley Transit Authority and the Antelope Valley School Transportation Agency to charge their zero-emission fleets. The Project also includes the addition of zero-emission microtransit buses and school buses; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, on July 21, 2022, the City Council adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On November 14, 2023, the City confirmed that the environmental document remains valid and there are no new impacts requiring mitigation. On November 16, 2023, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority, the funding applicant, confirmed the Project set forth in the environmental document is consistent with the Project's scope of work programmed by the Commission; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and hazards and hazardous materials. Mitigation measures include dust control during construction; construction worker training; burrowing owl and nesting bird pre-construction surveys; obtaining permits from the

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board; implementing discovery measures for cultural resources including coordination with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Cultural Resources Department and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; having a Native American monitor procured by the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians during all clearing, grubbing, and grading; preparation of a geotechnical study; compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity; implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; implementation of Best Management Practices to control erosion; initial spot-checking by a Qualified Paleontologist; implementation of a paleontological resources Worker's Environmental Awareness Program; and asbestos testing of irrigation pipes at the site.

- 1.8 WHEREAS, the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves the above-referenced Project for future funding consideration.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Transportation Commission
Attn: Cherry Zamora
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-4245

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Sweet Home Antelope Valley, Where the Skies are so Blue

2021090068	Jocelyn Swain	(661) 723-6100
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): The project is located on ±43 gross acres at the southeastern corner of 6th Street West and Avenue L-8 in the City of Lancaster in Los Angeles County.

Project Description: The project is located on ±43 gross acres at the southeastern corner of 6th Street West and Avenue L-8. The project includes a 5.72-megawatt direct current/4.38 megawatt alternating current solar facility with battery storage. This facility would be used by both the Antelope Valley Transit Authority and the Antelope Valley School Transportation Agency to charge their zero-emission vehicle fleets. The project also includes the addition of zero-emission microtransit buses and school buses.

This is to advise that the California Transportation Commission has approved the above-described
(☐ Lead Agency/ ☒ Responsible Agency)

project on December 6-7, 2023, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project (☐ will/ ☒ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ A Final Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures (☒ were/ ☐ were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan (☒ was / ☐ was not) adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations (☐ was / ☒ was not) adopted for this project.
6. Findings (☒ were/ ☐ were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The above identified document with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: Lancaster City Hall, Planning Department, 44933 North Fern Avenue, Lancaster, California.

TANISHA TAYLOR		Executive Director California Transportation Commission
<i>Signature (Public Agency)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>

Date received for filing at OPR:

Project Location Map

Sweet Home Antelope Valley, Where the Skies are so Blue

